

IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body, with its free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate on one end of the body for closing the gap, the gate having a locking barrel thereon for locking the gate to the other end of the body, wherein a region of the barrel overlaps the free end of the body when locking the gate in a closed position and wherein this region of the barrel has a greater thickness or strength on its face outward of the body when the gate is in a closed position so as to reinforce the karabiner against inward forces applied to the gate region thereof, wherein this region of greater thickness or strength is thicker than the face inward of the body, when the gate is in an open position, and wherein the barrel is slid and rotated to unlock the barrel and open the gate.

2. (Previously Presented) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is slidable along the gate to a locking position.

3. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is screw threadedly mounted on the gate for movement therealong for locking the gate.

4. (Currently Amended) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is a double locking ~~or triple locking~~ barrel.

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3600

Application No. 09/975,088

Paper Dated: August 24, 2005

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of February 24, 2005

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5. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel has additional thickness of material on the face or side of the barrel that will be outermost when it is in the position of locking the gate in a closed position.

6. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is made of carbon steel.

7. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is made of aluminum or stainless steel.

8. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is sized and/or made from suitable material, such that it can withstand push in forces upto 25kN.

9. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1 having a substantially solid cylindrical gate.

10. (Original) A karabiner as claimed in claim 1 having a wire gate.

11.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (NEW) A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body, with its free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate on one end of the body for closing the gap, the gate having a locking barrel thereon for locking the gate to the other end of the body, wherein a region of the barrel overlaps the free end of the body when locking the gate in a closed position and wherein this region of the barrel has a greater thickness or

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strength on its face outward of the body when the gate is in a closed position so as to reinforce the karabiner against inward forces applied to the gate region thereof, wherein this region of greater thickness or strength is thicker than the face inward of the body, when the gate is in an open position, and wherein the barrel is a triple locking barrel.

16. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is slidable along the gate to a locking position.

17. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is screw threadedly mounted on the gate for movement therealong for locking the gate.

16. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel has additional thickness of material on the face or side of the barrel that will be outermost when it is in the position of locking the gate in a closed position.

17. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is made of carbon steel, aluminum or stainless steel.

18. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrel is sized and/or made from suitable material, such that it can withstand push in forces up to 25kN.

19. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15 having a substantially solid cylindrical gate.

20. (NEW) A karabiner as claimed in claim 15 having a wire gate.